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L. H. Southwick, Jr.

CHARTER,

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS,

AND

RULES OF ORDER,

OF THE

FRANKLIN LYCEUM,

PROVIDENCE.

PROVIDENCE:
PROVIDENCE PRESS COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS.
1876.

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CHARTER.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,
JANUARY SESSION, 1843.

An Act to Incorporate the Franklin Lyceum.

SECTION I.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly as follows, viz.:

That Charles Burnett, Jr., Henry B. Metcalf, William M. Rodman, Walter W. Updike, Benjamin G. Godfrey, James L. King, Edward A. Greene, Robert Manton, John Dean, Charles H. Mason, George Thurber, William B. Shove, Isaac Proud, Daniel W. Vaughan, Richard E. Hamlin, Thomas L. Dunnell, Albert Dailey, William Knowles, Augustus Whitman, William Whitaker, Walter C. Simmons, James Chace, and Nathan Stevens, all of Providence; and such others as now are, or hereafter may be, admitted members of this society, be, and they hereby are, constituted, created, and made a body politic

and corporate, with perpetual succession, by the name and style of the Franklin Lyceum, with full power to make and ordain, alter and amend, such by-laws, rules and regulations for their government as they may think necessary, the same not being contrary to the laws of this State; and they are empowered by the aforesaid name to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, to hold and enjoy any kind of estate, real or personal, to an amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars, whether obtained by gift, devise, purchase, or otherwise, and to dispose of and convey the same at pleasure; to have a common seal, which they may alter or change, as they may think proper; and the following shall be their present

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This society shall be called the Franklin Lyceum.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of the Lyceum shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Cabinet Keeper, and Standing Committee, all of whom shall be elected annually, by a majority of the members present, at an annual meeting, and always by ballot.

ARTICLE III.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all regular meetings of the society, to preserve order, to put questions to vote, and to give the casting vote.

ARTICLE IV.

In the absence of the President, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the Vice President; and in the ab-

sence of both, a chairman shall be elected by a majority of the members present.

ARTICLE V.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a true record of the proceedings of the society, to take charge of all papers and documents, and generally perform all the duties appertaining to the office of Secretary.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all accounts, pay all bills when properly audited, collect all fines, receive all moneys belonging to the society, and to report the state of the treasury at every annual meeting, or oftener, if required.

ARTICLE VII.

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to take charge of the library, and enforce such laws as the society may adopt concerning its regulations, and to make an annual report of the state of the library.

ARTICLE VIII.

It shall be the duty of the Cabinet Keeper to preserve order in the arrangement of the cabinet of minerals and other collections, and to make an annual report of the state of the cabinet.

ARTICLE IX.

The Standing Committee shall consist of three mem-

bers, whose duty it shall be to have the care of all property not assigned to any other custody; to propound persons for admission; to examine, audit, and certify all accounts against the society, before they are paid; and to report annually.

ARTICLE X.

The annual meeting of the society shall take place on the first Monday evening in January, when an election of officers shall be made.

SECTION II.

The foregoing act, and everything therein contained, shall be forever hereafter subject to all acts of the General Assembly, in amendment or repeal thereof, or in any wise affecting the same.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, &C.

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY SESSION, A. D. 1875.

An Act in Amendment of An Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Franklin Lyceum,"

PASSED AT THE JANUARY SESSION, A. D. 1843.

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

ARTICLE XI.

SECTION 1. The Improvement Fund of the Franklin Lyceum shall consist of the initiation fees of the life members, of sums of money set apart for that purpose by vote of the society, of sums of money obtained by gift or devise, and of the whole or such part of the income of said moneys as may not be otherwise appropriated. Said fund shall be under the management of three (3) trustees. Neither the whole nor any part of the principal of said fund shall be expended unless authorized by an amendment of this article. The income of said fund shall only be expended in the manner provided in Section two (2) of this article.

SECTION 2. Neither the whole nor any part of the income of said Improvement Fund shall be expended or appropriated unless authorized in manner following, viz.: The resolution for such expenditure or appropriation shall be proposed at a regular meeting of the Lyceum at least thirty days previous to the annual meeting, and shall be recorded upon the journal. Notice of the pendency of such resolution shall be posted during the week next following its proposal in three conspicuous places in the rooms of the Lyceum; at the next regular meeting, not less than one week after its proposal, said resolution shall be voted upon, and if the votes of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting, (there being at least twenty-five members present and voting thereon,) shall be in the affirmative, then said resolution shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the Lyceum at the annual election next ensuing, and notice that such resolution is to be voted upon shall be advertised twice in the week next preceding said annual election, in two of the daily newspapers published in the city of Providence. The treasurer shall furnish for the use of members at said annual election, a sufficient number of ballots with said resolution printed in full thereon, and each qualified voter may indorse upon one of such ballots either the word "Yes," or the word "No," and deposit the same with his ballot for general officers. If the number of such ballots having the word "Yes," indorsed thereon, shall be equal to two-thirds or more of the ballots cast at said election for the office of President, then the Trustees of the Improvement Fund shall, within thirty days thereafter, pay over to the treasurer

the whole of the income of said fund for the preceding year, or such part thereof as such resolution may direct. The entire income of the Improvement Fund for the year next preceding each annual meeting, or such part thereof as shall not be expended or appropriated in manner above provided, shall be added to, and form a part of said fund.

SECTION 3. At the first annual election after the adoption of this article three Trustees of the Improvement Fund shall be elected by ballot, from the members of the Lyceum, one to serve three years, one to serve two years, and one to serve one year, and at each succeeding annual election one Trustee shall be elected to serve three years. Said Trustees, during their term of service, shall not hold any other office in the gift of the Lyceum. It shall be the duty of said Trustees to invest and manage the Improvement Fund for the best interests of the Lyceum. At each annual meeting said Trustees shall make report in writing of the amount, condition, investment and income of said fund; and, whenever required by vote of the Lyceum, at a regular meeting, they shall make report as to such matters pertaining to said fund as may be required. Until such Trustees are elected, the Improvement Fund shall be in the care of the Treasurer of the Lyceum.

SECTION 4. No application shall be made to the General Assembly for any alteration or amendment of this article, or either section thereof, except in manner following, viz.: The resolution for the proposed amendment shall be proposed in writing at a regular meeting of the Lyceum, at least thirty days previous to the annual

meeting, and shall be recorded upon the journal; notice of the pendency of such resolution shall be advertised at least twice during the week next following its proposal, in two of the daily newspapers published in the city of Providence; at the next following regular meeting, not less than one week after its proposal, said resolution shall be voted upon, and, if the votes of at least three-fourths of the members present and voting, (there being at least twenty-five members present and voting thereon,) shall be in the affirmative, then said resolution shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the Lyceum, at the annual election next ensuing; and notice that such resolution is to be voted upon shall be advertised twice in each week for the two successive weeks next preceding said annual election, in two of the daily newspapers published in the city of Providence. The Treasurer shall furnish for the use of members at said annual election a sufficient number of ballots with said resolution printed in full thereon; and each qualified voter may indorse upon one of such ballots, either the word "Yes," or the word "No," and deposit the same with his ballot for general officers. If the number of such ballots having the word "Yes," indorsed thereon shall be equal to three-fourths or more of the ballots cast at said election, for the office of President, the Treasurer of the Lyceum shall, as soon as possible thereafter, make application to the General Assembly for amendment of this article, pursuant to said resolution.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect on and after its passage.

L. S.

I CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true copy. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the State, this second day of June, A. D. 1875.

JOSHUA M. ADDEMAN,

Secretary of State.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. Members of this Lyceum shall be divided into the following classes, viz.: active members, life members, corresponding members, honorary members, and retired members.

SEC. 2. Active and life members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Lyceum, except as is hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. All candidates for active membership must have attained the age of sixteen years, and shall be propounded by the chair at a regular meeting, at least one week before admission; and the vote upon such admission shall be taken by ballot when requested by any member.

SEC. 4. All propositions for active membership shall be in writing, with the name of the member proposing the same, and three other members as referees; and no such candidate shall become a member unless said candidate shall be vouched for by the member proposing him or by one of his referees, and shall receive four-fifths of all the votes cast, nor until said candidate has subscribed to the constitution, and paid three dollars into the treasury.

SEC. 5. Any person who shall have been admitted as an active member, and shall neglect to pay the admission fee and subscribe to the constitution within three months from the time of his admission, shall be considered ineligible to membership, unless again proposed and elected.

SEC. 6. Life members shall comprise those admitted as active members, including those who have at any time been active members, and whose connection with the Lyceum has been honorably terminated, who shall, by vote of the Lyceum, at a regular meeting, be placed upon that list, after procuring from the Treasurer a certificate that they have paid all taxes and dues assessed against them, and who shall, within ten (10) days after the passage of such vote, pay into the Improvement Fund

an admission fee as follows, viz.: First. If the candidate shall have been at any time an active member during ten (10) years or upward, his admission fee for life membership shall be twenty-five (25) dollars. Second. If the candidate shall have been at any time an active member during less than ten (10) years his admission fee for life membership shall be fifty (50) dollars.

SEC. 7. Corresponding members shall comprise those admitted as active members, who, upon removing from the city or vicinity, shall, by a vote of the Lyceum, be placed upon that list, after procuring from the Treasurer a certificate that all dues have been paid. Any corresponding member may resume his active membership by giving notice to the Treasurer of such intention, within six months after his return; and by paying three dollars into the Treasury.

SEC. 8. Honorary members shall comprise such as may be admitted in consequence of their literary or scientific attainments, or of some marked benefit conferred by them upon the Lyceum.

SEC. 9. Retired members shall comprise those who, after an active membership of ten years, or upwards, shall make application to the Lyceum to be placed on that list; the application to be accom-

panied by a certificate from the Treasurer that they have paid all taxes and dues assessed against them.

SEC. 10. None but active and life members shall be entitled to vote, be eligible to any office in the Lyceum, have the use of the library or apparatus, or have any ownership in any property belonging to the Lyceum, unless by a special vote of the society. None but active members shall be subject to taxation.

SEC. 11. Any member shall be entitled to withdraw from the society by requesting it in writing, through the Treasurer, and producing a certificate from him of payment of all dues to the Lyceum.

SEC. 12. Any person ceasing to be an active or a life member, thereby relinquishes, terminates and extinguishes all ownership and interests of himself, or of any person in his behalf, in and to any property belonging to the Lyceum, or to him as a member thereof.

SEC. 13. Any member shall be liable to expulsion or dismission for disorderly or immoral conduct, or for neglecting, for two years, to pay his proportion of assessments, or taxation. Provided always, that a motion to expel or dismiss a member shall be made at a regular meeting two weeks

previous to taking a vote thereon, and no member shall be expelled or dismissed, except by the votes of three-fourths of the members present at a regular meeting, notice having been given to the delinquent of the motion pending, by mail, to his last known Post Office address; and it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to report such delinquencies.

ARTICLE II.

MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the society shall take place on the first Monday evening in January, at such time as the Lyceum shall determine, at least one week before said meeting.

SEC. 2. The Lyceum shall be convened weekly, on Monday evening, at eight o'clock, except during the interval for which the society may adjourn in the warm season; a motion to determine the time for which the society may so adjourn shall be made at a regular meeting two weeks previous to taking a vote thereon, and be recorded in the records of said meeting.

SEC. 3. Eight members shall constitute a quorum for the ordinary business of the Lyceum,

but no alteration in the by-laws or rules of order, nor any appropriation of money shall be made, unless at least twenty-five members are present and voting on the question.

SEC. 4. A special meeting *shall* be called by the President at any time at the request of eight members; and the secretary shall notify the members of such meeting by advertising the same in some daily newspaper published in the city of Providence.

ARTICLE III.

EXERCISES.

SECTION 1. The prominent exercises of the Lyceum shall be lectures, debates, and discussions.

SEC. 2. On the first Monday evening in each month there may be a lecture, and debates on the other evenings; and no person, not a member, shall be allowed to lecture, except by vote of the Lyceum.

SEC. 3. There may be an anniversary celebration of the Lyceum, during the month of January of every year, when there may be an oration and a poem.

ARTICLE IV.

MANNER OF BALLOTING.

In all elections requiring a ballot three tellers shall be appointed by the chair, and each member as he deposits his ballot in a box on the table for that purpose, shall announce his name, and it shall be checked by the secretary, or by one of the tellers.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. *President.* In addition to the duties prescribed in Article III of the constitution it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to supply vacancies in the offices of the Lyceum, until the same are otherwise supplied; to state the business on record to be transacted; to sign certificates of membership; to appoint all committees, unless otherwise ordered by the society; and he may, at any time, supply his place in the chair, but shall resume the same at the request of three members.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to make and preserve a record of all donations and loans, with the names of the donors and lenders,

and such information relating to donations and loans as the Lyceum may deem proper; to read the record of the preceding meeting; and to notify candidates of their admission. He shall also keep and preserve, at all times, a correct copy of the by-laws and rules of order of the Lyceum, together with such alterations therein and amendments thereto, as may, from time to time, be made. It shall also be the duty of the secretary to give to all the regularly appointed disputants written notice of their appointments, at least four days previous to the evening for debate; and also, to notify the members of all committees of their appointment, and of the object of such appointment.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer elect, before he enters upon the duties of his office to give to the Franklin Lyceum a bond in the sum of two thousand dollars, with one or more sureties, to be approved by the standing committee, to secure the Lyceum from all loss arising from any dereliction of duty on the part of the Treasurer, in the collection, preservation, or disbursement of the sums committed to his charge, or from any failure on his part to pay over to the Lyceum, or to his legally appointed successor, any sums of money in his hands belonging to the Lyceum, or which may

be owing from him to the Lyceum, whenever called upon to do so; it shall also be his duty to give certificates of membership under the seal of the Lyceum, and to keep the secretary supplied at all times with a correct list of the active and life members of the Lyceum in alphabetical order.

SEC. 4. In addition to the officers named in the charter there shall be a lecture committee, a question committee, and a library committee, who shall be chosen at each annual meeting in the manner provided in Article II of the constitution for the election of general officers.

SEC. 5. The lecture committee shall consist of three members. At each annual election one member shall be elected to serve three years; but vacancies may be filled at any time.

SEC. 6. The question committee shall consist of three members, and it shall be their duty to select a question and report the same at each regular meeting, for discussion, on the second Monday evening next following. It shall also be their duty to select and appoint four disputants to open the discussion, two in the affirmative and two in the negative.

SEC. 7. In the election of standing committee, question committee, and library committee, the

names of the members voted for as each of such committees shall be numbered upon the ticket, and in counting them, the places numbered shall be considered separate places.

ARTICLE VI.

SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS.

The Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian shall receive a fair compensation for their services, to be determined at the first regular meeting after the annual meeting. It shall remain as at present established, until changed at such meeting, and shall, in no case, be increased or diminished at any other time.

ARTICLE VII.

TAXATION.

SECTION 1. The expenses of the Lyceum shall be defrayed by an equal tax on each active member, not exceeding the sum of four dollars per annum, but no tax shall be collected unless assessed by a vote of the Lyceum. The Secretary, at the time of such assessment, and the Treasurer who shall collect a tax, when so assessed, shall be exempt from the payment of such tax.

SEC. 2. No member whose tax shall be due and unpaid for one or more years, before the first day of January, in each and every year, shall be entitled to the privilege of taking books from the library while such tax shall remain unpaid; the names of such persons in arrears to be communicated to the Librarian by the Treasurer before the last day of each year.

SEC. 3. The Treasurer shall, between the 9th day of February and the first day of March of each year, send to each active member of the Lyceum a bill of the taxes, if any, due from him to the Lyceum.

SEC. 4. On all tax bills sent to members who are more than two years in arrears, a notice shall be printed as follows: "Any member wishing to be placed on the corresponding or retired lists, or to withdraw from the Lyceum, can do so by notifying the Treasurer, in writing, of such intention and paying his taxes in full. For life membership an additional fee of twenty-five dollars, or fifty dollars, according to length of previous membership, is required."

ARTICLE VIII.

LIBRARY.

SECTION 1. There shall be elected, at each an-

nual meeting a committee of six, who, together with the Librarian, shall constitute the library committee for the year ensuing; and such library committee shall have the sole control and regulation of the library, and shall direct the Librarian in the discharge of his duties, and expend such appropriations as may, from time to time, be made by the Lyceum for the library; and any four shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business that may properly devolve upon such committee.

SEC. 2. The Lyceum shall appropriate at the first regular meeting after the annual meeting in each year a specific sum for the benefit of the library, to be expended under the direction of the library committee.

ARTICLE IX.

CABINET.

SECTION 1. The cabinet and scientific collections shall be under the care and control of the Cabinet Keeper.

SEC. 2. All specimens and articles of every kind whatever, deposited in the cabinet, or either of its departments, shall belong to the Lyceum, unless otherwise specified at the time of deposit.

ARTICLE X.

ALTERATION OF LAWS.

SECTION 1. No application shall be made to the General Assembly for any alteration or amendment of the charter of this Lyceum without a motion to make such alteration or amendment shall have been made at a regular meeting and recorded on the journal, at least two weeks previous to taking the vote thereon; nor unless it receives the votes of three-fourths of all the members present.

SEC. 2. No by-law or rule of order shall be enacted, amended, or repealed, unless on motion made and recorded two weeks, nor unless two-thirds of those present, vote in favor of such motion; nor unless said motion is disposed of within eight weeks after it has first been recorded. Said originally proposed amendment, if materially changed, shall be subject to the same requirements as the amendment originally proposed.

SEC. 3. Any rule of order may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

RULES OF ORDER.

FIRST.

The following shall be the order of exercises at all regular meetings of the Lyceum, viz.:

1. The proceedings of the previous meeting shall be read, and mistakes, if any, corrected.
2. Reports of committees.
3. General business.
4. Debate or lecture.

SECOND.

The ayes and noes shall be called and entered on the journal, at the request of one-fifth of the members present.

THIRD.

When two or more members rise at once the presiding officer shall name the one to speak first.

FOURTH.

Any member, on being called to order, shall immediately sit down, and the Lyceum shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate; but the member called to order may first be permitted by the President to explain.

FIFTH.

Every member present, when a question is put, shall give his vote, unless excused by the Lyceum.

SIXTH.

When a motion has been made and carried, in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move for a reconsideration of the same.

SEVENTH.

No motion shall be debated or put unless the same shall have been seconded; when seconded, it shall be stated by the President before debate, and shall be reduced to writing at the request of the President, or any member.

EIGHTH.

The disputants appointed to open the question shall speak first, in their order, and after these have spoken, the question shall be open for general discussion by the members of the Lyceum.

NINTH.

The disputants appointed to open the question may speak not exceeding twenty minutes, and no other person shall speak more than fifteen minutes in the debate, nor shall any person speak more than ten minutes in the discussion of any business before the Lyceum, except by unanimous consent. When the time of any member speaking shall have expired, notice thereof shall be given him by the chair.

TENTH.

A motion to adjourn, to lay on the table, and the previous question, shall be decided without debate, but no motion to adjourn shall be repeated until some other business has intervened. Except as above provided, a motion to adjourn shall always be in order.

ELEVENTH.

When any motion whatever, or other matter. shall have been laid upon the table, the same shall not be taken up until the next meeting, unless distinctly stated in the motion to lay on the table, that it is laid on the table for a specific purpose.

ARTICLE

ON THE ADOPTION OF THE BY-LAWS AND RULES OF ORDER.

The foregoing by-laws and rules of order shall go into effect immediately, and all by-laws and rules of order of the Lyceum heretofore in force are hereby repealed; provided, however, that all officers and committees already elected or appointed shall continue in the discharge of their duties, to such offices as this constitution provides.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
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